

Approved For Release 2003/05/28 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000600080015-3

SA (COMOR) / DUSCE
Chairman, COMOR
5-7
CORONA
(cross ref in stat. file)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

3 DEC 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NPIC
DIRECTOR, DIA (ATTN: SAO)
CHAIRMAN, COMOR

SUBJECT: CORONA J

1. For your information, an improved version of the CORONA Project, called the CORONA J configuration, is planned to be flown beginning in early summer of 1963 at the rate of one per month. The J configuration consists of the thrust-assisted THOR booster, the AGENA D satellite, two modified MK 5A recovery systems and a modified CORONA M panoramic camera system. The mission parameters are changed in that 7800 feet of stereo photography or 15,600 feet of monoscopic photography can be generated intermittently and stored in the #1 recovery system during the first four days of satellite life. At some time during the first four days of satellite life and after completion of the first reconnaissance phase, the re-entry and recovery sequence of operations will be initiated and a recovery of the #1 recovery system will be effected. After ejection of recovery system #1, the satellite will be programmed into a controlled tumble for up to 20 days with the control gas and power turned off. The satellite will be re-stabilized one day prior to further reconnaissance use. The satellite will be re-activated and the remaining panoramic film supply (approximately 15,000 feet) will be programmed intermittently, during a one to four day interval, precisely the same as with the first four days of operation. The re-entry and recovery sequence of operations will be initiated and the recovery of the #2 recovery system will be effected thus completing two photographic missions with one CORONA-M camera system and on the basis of a single satellite launch.

2. The CORONA J configuration will carry two S/I systems, which will provide for the same S/I coverage for each of the two J recoveries (50 feet of stellar and 125 feet of index photography per recovery).

3. Camera systems planned for use in the J configuration can be flown separately as standard CORONA-M systems. Decision as to exact flight configuration for each launch will be made by DNRO,

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NRO reviews completed.

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based upon target coverage requirements, including frequency of coverage required, and relative target priorities established by USIB.

Signed

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Colonel, USAF
Director, NRO Staff

cc: DDA/CIA

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